Office of Water Template Language
Collection of Monitoring Data

The following text is a starting point for language to insert into contracts and ICRs that require the collection of water monitoring data as specified in OW Information Technology and Data Reporting Requirements. This text may need to be modified in for specific contracts and ICRs. Questions on modifying this text should be referred to the OW Senior Resource Information Management Officer, Andy Battin.

Monitoring Data

Ambient water quality, chemical, physical, biological, sediment, tissue or ecological monitoring data monitoring data collected must be submitted to Office of Water's STORET system or made available in the Advisory Council for Water Information (ACWI) Core Monitoring Data Element Standard (or Data Exchange Template).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains two data management systems containing water quality information for the nation's waters: the Legacy Data Center, and STORET.

The Legacy Data Center, or LDC, contains historical water quality data dating back to the early part of the 20th century and collected up to the end of 1998. STORET contains data collected beginning in 1999, along with older data that has been properly documented and migrated from the LDC.

Both systems contain raw biological, chemical, and physical data on surface and ground water collected by federal, state and local agencies, Indian Tribes, volunteer groups, academics, and others. All 50 States, territories, and jurisdictions of the U.S., along with portions of Canada and Mexico, are represented in these systems.

Each sampling result in the LDC and in STORET is accompanied by information on where the sample was taken (latitude, longitude, state, county, Hydrologic Unit Code and a brief site identification), when the sample was gathered, the medium sampled (e.g., water, sediment, fish tissue), and the name of the organization that sponsored the monitoring.

In addition, STORET contains information on why the data were gathered; sampling and analytical methods used; the laboratory used to analyze the samples; the quality control checks used when sampling, handling the samples, and analyzing the data; and the personnel responsible for the data.

To use STORET as a water quality data repository, the following are minimum hardware requirements:

Pentium 75 MHz or equivalent processor (166 MHz or higher is recommended)

32 Meg RAM

3.5" diskette drive

4x speed CD-ROM drive

100 MEG free hard disk space (software only installation)

300 MEG free hard disk space (software and database installation)

Display: VGA 640 x 480 min (800 x 600/256 or 1024 x 768/256 color also supported)

Microsoft mouse or compatible pointing device

The minimum software requirements are:

Windows 95/98 or Windows NT v4.0

STORET Production v1.1 CD-ROM

Oracle Connection:

Database on Workstation - Personal Oracle v7.3.3 or v7.3.4
- or -

Database on Server - Oracle Server v7.3 or higher (Oracle 8.x OK)

For more information, see http://www.epa.gov/storet/about.html

An alternative method to providing monitoring data is to submit a file in the Advisory Council for Water Information (ACWI) Core Monitoring Data Element Standard (or Data Exchange Template). In 2003, the Agency began providing a Central Data Exchange mechanism for transferring files in this format to EPA. information on the standard is at http://www.epa.gov/edr and on Central Data Exchange at http://www.epa.gov/cdx/priority.html.